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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS.

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CROP PROSPECTS.

The wheat crop of India 1922-23 is now estimated to be 401,856,000 bushels from an area of 30,492,000 acres, according to a radiogram received by the United States Department of Agriculture, May 30, 1923, from the Indian Department of Statistics. This is a reduction of 23,707,000 bushels, as compared with the estimate of 425,563,000 bushels published in the "Third Forecast" April 13, when the acreage was reported to be 30,550,000 acres. The final estimate for 1922 was 366,352,000 bushels from 28,234,000 acres. With a consumption requirement of about 320,000,000 bushels, there should be available for export from the present crop approximately 82,000,000 bushels.

The final estimate of flaxseed production in India for 1922-23 is placed at 21,400,000 bushels, according to a radiogram received by the United States Department of Agriculture from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. This is 23 per cent greater than the estimate of last year, which was 17,360,000 bushels.

Rains in Ontario, Canada have benefited pastures and improved conditions for the germination of spring grains. Field work and spring seeding was interrupted by the wet weather according to the report, Ontario Department of Agriculture, May 21.

Wheat seeding in the Prairie Provinces of Canada was nearing completion May 18 according to a report of the Consul General of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The maize crop of Yugoslavia is reported to be irregular and needing rains, by Broomhall May 18.

Conditions in Argentina continue favorable reports the Anglo South American Bank of May 12. Plowing for wheat oats and linseed has made rapid progress except in the south where it was retarded for lack of rain. Pasturage in the south is poor because of drought.

The outlook in Australia may now be considered satisfactory due to recent rains in the various states according to the London Grain Seed and Oil Reporter of May 18.

FARM LABOR AND WAGES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

Fully one-half of all occupied persons in the leading countries of the world are engaged in agriculture,

Farm Labor Crisis in Great Britain.

The present severe depression in farm wages in Great Britain is not to be accounted for apart from the general agricultural depression in that country and in much of the world. This depression, affecting all agricultural classes, in Great Britain, is due primarily to the low prices received for British farm products.

Although the British farmer's home market is insatiable and its accessibility is to his advantage, the nature of his competition in that market has been such as to give rise to a critical condition for the British agricultural classes. Serious losses have been incurred by the British farmer in the past two years. There has been a decline in the arable area with a prospect of a still further shrinkage. As a consequence there has been growing unemployment of farm laborers and a rapid fall in agricultural wages to a level which in some districts can barely afford subsistence. The present cost of living makes it impracticable that there should be any further reduction in farm laborers' wages, while on the other hand, the prices at which the farmer can dispose of his products are as a whole barely sufficiently remunerative to cover the cost of production.

Production in those competing countries supplying cheap farm products is either less intensive, that is, farms are operated with relatively more product per man and less per acre, or, labor is less well paid as in family farming and the standard of comfort is lowered to meet the diminished returns.

It appears that the adjustment to the downward shifting price level can be made in England only by adopting less intensive cultivation of the land already farmed, and that the other alternative of more intensive cultivation cannot prove to be economically sound except in so far as it assumes the form of more or better product at the same cost.

Expansion in farm business under the stimulus of rising prices in England was in the direction of greater intensity of cultivation by extending the use of labor as well as better equipment. When, in 1920, prices dropped, readjustment was forced upon the British farmer. Disposition of machinery was less advantageously accomplished than was the reduction of wages or the hiring of less labor. Of the methods open to the farmer in reducing his costs the most obvious one and the one most subject to his immediate control was reduction of wages. If reduction fails, he can resort to non-employment. But with over one million continuously unemployed in industry in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the time is not very propitious for a shift to industrial employment rather than agricultural.

Farm wages average higher in Canada than in the United States. The weighted average yearly farm wage in the United States is considerably lowered by the relatively low wages prevailing in the southern sections. The average yearly farm wage in some of the northern states is normally about the same as in Canada. The scarcity of the supply of farm workers during the war affected the wage levels in both countries, Canada being affected earlier and longer than the United States.

Farm wages in Denmark have kept closely in line with prices and profits received by farmers. Owing to the fact that Danish agriculture has not suffered as much depression as most countries, farm wages have not been greatly depressed. The agricultural classes in Denmark are prosperous relative to those in other countries at the present time.

Revenues from farms in Switzerland fell to a marked degree during the year 1921. Operating expenses did not fall in proportion to prices of farm produce. Farm wages although slightly diminished in comparison with 1920 were still more than 100% above the prewar wage. Still more meager farm returns were expected by the investigators for the year 1922.

The movement from the rural areas of France which has been persistently observable for about fifty years was stimulated somewhat by the war. The conditions of constant shortage of labor for the farms are attracting foreign laborers, the immigration of whom is being actively encouraged by the French government.

The scarcity of agricultural labor and increased wages in the Island of Mauritius, primarily in the sugar industry has resulted in a marked lowering of the standard of cultivation in the Island.

Rent and interest are high relative to farm wages in China. While (in 1917) the farm worker rarely received more than 25 cents a day, interest received on farm loans was usually from 13 to 20 per cent, while rent amounted to about half the gross produce.

Pioneer farming in South Africa is now passing. Close supervision of labor, thoroughness and exhaustive effort are now essential to successful farming in that comparatively new country. Most of the labor is of the native (colored) stock.

Scarcity of farm labor threatens the Belgian farmer. In the industrial districts, factory hands to some extent employ their spare time in the fields.

Farm wages and rents in the Netherlands are still so high as to lessen profits in agriculture, at prevailing prices of farm products.

Migration of Farm Labor.

British emigrants are assisted in the matter of passage, under the Overseas Settlement Plan, to become settlers and laborers in the British Dominions.

The arrest of emigration from Italy during and since the war has resulted in a record rate of increase in the population of that country in the decade 1911-12. The tendencies toward relatively greater increase in urban than in rural population.

German farmers may have to contend this year with a shortage of farm labor. The customary summer migration of farm laborers to Germany may find small encouragement in the rate of pay even though German farmers and farm laborers are presumably better off than other classes.

Farm Labor Organization.

In all countries peculiar difficulties in the way of organization for collective bargaining are inherent in the nature of the work and basis of pay of agricultural workers. The nature of the agricultural industry does not so readily permit of standardized working days as in most other industries. Furthermore, agricultural laborers may receive board or both board and lodging as part compensation, or they may even receive part payment in kind. Varied progress has been made in the different countries in the way of organization and methods of wage-fixing. Strikes of farm workers have been few, the most notable occurring in England in March, 1923, affecting some 2,000 farm workers in Norfolk county.

World protection of farm workers will be the object of study of an important international committee, the formation of which was completed recently by the governing body of the International Labor Office of the League of Nations at Geneva.

Insurance of agricultural laborers against unemployment has met with some success in various countries. Indifference of farm workers generally to such insurance is accounted for principally by the character of their employment.

The satisfactory distribution of agricultural labor is a problem which is receiving attention by many governments through the establishment of some form of agricultural employment service.

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TRADE, PRODUCTION, AND PRICE NOTES.

The latest official estimates of crops in Norway for 1922 show a decreased acreage of all cereal crops and potatoes as compared with 1921, and a decreased production of wheat, rye, and maslin. The yield of oats, barley, and potatoes was greater than in 1921. Peas, turnips, and hay showed increases in both area and yield as compared with 1921.

The final estimates of crop production in Great Britain sustained the previously reported reduction of the yield of cereals as compared with 1921. The production of beans, potatoes, and forage crops, except hay from clover, sainfoin, etc., was greater than in 1921.

The potato crop of Denmark in 1922 was slightly below that of the preceding year but was more than 18,000,000 bushels above the pre-war average 1909-13.

Exports of wheat from the United States during the ten month period July 1, 1922 to April 30, 1923 amounted to 195,000,000 bushels, a decrease of 52,000,000 bushels, or 21 per cent less than for the same period last year.

Canadian exports of wheat for the ten months ending April 30, 1923 amounted to 233,000,000 bushels as against 148,000,000 last season. This is an increase of 85,000,000 bushels, or 57 per cent.

Exports of wheat from Argentina, Uruguay, and Australia show a reduction from last year, according to Broomhall's Corn Trade News of May 8, 1923. Argentina and Uruguay exported 69,000,000 bushels from January 1 to May 5 this year as compared with 71,000,000 bushels for the same period 1922, while Australian figures are 30,000,000 bushels for the same period, as compared with 56,000,000 in 1922.

The United Kingdom imported 68,000,000 bushels of wheat during the period January 1 to April 30, 1923 as compared with 71,000,000 in 1922 and 44,000,000 bushels in 1921.

The proceeds of the War-Time Vegetable Oil Consortium in France will be devoted principally to the development of agricultural experiment stations in the French colonies, reports Consul Wesley Frost at Marseille under date of April 24. About 10,000,000 francs will be spent on experiment stations in Senegal, on the Ivory Coast, and in Dahomey. About three million francs will be devoted to the improvement of the harbor and dock facilities at Marseille for the handling of peanuts, copra, sesamum seed, and other oil bearing seeds.

A Polish farmer's cooperative society called "The Commercial Society of Polish Agriculturists" has recently been formed in Poland for the purpose of marketing farm products direct to consumers, reports Consul General L. J. Kenna from Warsaw under date of April 27. The society intends to construct a number of warehouses for storing and grading grain. A chain of modern elevators will also be established to enable farmers to dispose of their grain direct to the company's elevators as it is harvested. The Polish Government is interesting itself in the development of the organization.

ACREAGE OF ALL WHEAT, 1922 AND 1923, ALL COUNTRIES REPORTING.

Item.	Acreage for harvest.		Percentage from 1922.	
	1922.	1923.	Decrease.	Increase.
	Acres.	Acres.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Estimates previously received and unreviewed (17 countries) ^a	100,099,000	98,873,000	1.2	...
Estimates recently received:				
India..... ^a	28,234,000	30,492,000	...	8.6
Total 18 countries reporting..... ^a	128,333,000	128,905,000	...	.4

^a a. Acreage harvested or to be harvested, United States, Canada, and India.

Sources: Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture Bulletins and cables.

Exports of Grains and Wheat Flour from the United States, Wheat and Wheat Flour from Canada, and Shipments of Canadian Wheat and Wheat Flour through the United States in transit, July-May 1922 and 1923 and May 12 to June 2, 1923.

Commodity	Unit	11 mos., July-May			1923		
		1921-	1922-1923	Week ending	Week ending	Week ending	Week ending
		1922	Preliminary	May 19	May 26	June 2	June 2
Exports:		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Barley.....	Bu.	21,248	17,466	10	283	147	
Corn.....	"	164,739	95,428	924	602	332	
Oats.....	"	9,260	18,603	189	20	121	
Rye.....	"	24,950	47,814	633	1,203	831	
Wheat.....	"	194,315	139,503	4,760	2,544	3,386	
Wheat flour....	Bbls.	14,865	13,916	182	191	163	
In transit shipments from Canada:							
Wheat.....	Bu.	78,572	109,751	1,673	548	906	
Wheat flour....	Bbls.	2,335	3,092	16	5	(2)	
Exports from Canada							
Wheat.....	Bu.	119,130	192,511	1	1	1	
Wheat flour....	Bbls.	6,337	9,165	1	1	1	

(1) Ten months July-April. (2) Less than 500.

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce and Monthly Reports of the Trade of Canada.

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LATEST ESTIMATES OF THE SUGAR PRODUCTION RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF
FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS.

Country.	1921-22.	1922-23	Previously Published	Latest Estimate.
Spain a.....	b 79,649	190,000		172,492
World production including revisions.	20,196,660	20,492,264		20,474,755

a. Beet sugar.

b. Revised figure, a decrease of 71,351 short tons as compared to the figure previously published, which was 151,000 short tons quoted March 28, 1923 from Willett and Gray.

Source: Report of Consul Ralph J. Totten, April 17, 1923, Barcelona Spain, quoting the Director of Customs.

CUBAN SUGAR PRODUCTION.

The total Cuban Sugar production up to May 26, 1923 as estimated by Willett and Gray amounts to 3,925,400 short tons as compared to 3,789,400 short tons to the same date last year, which is an increase of 136,000 short tons. Eight centrals have completed grinding during the week leaving eleven still at work as against 51 centrals grinding at the same date last year. The eight centrals report a total outturn of 322,941 short tons as compared to 288,692 short tons during the last season, this brings the actual production for the 171 centrals, which have completed their work since the beginning of the crop year, to 3,607,548 short tons as compared to 3,723,303 short tons for the same centrals during the 1921-22 season.

Source: Weekly Statistical Sugar Trade Journal, May 31, 1923, pages 280 and 282.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN SPAIN FOR THE CROP YEAR 1922-23 COMPARED TO
1921-22.

	1921-22.	1922-23.
Number of factories in operation....	27	32
Amount of beets ground.....	Short tons 809,472	Short tons 1,317,610
Amount of sugar produced.....	" " 79,649	" " 172,492

Source: Report of Consul Ralph J. Totten April 17, 1923, Barcelona, Spain, quoting the Director General of Customs.

AREA OF CROPS IN NORWAY IN 1921, 1922 AND THE AVERAGE FOR THE YEARS 1909-13.

Crop.	Average 1909-13.	1921.	1922.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat.....	12,409	40,527	24,727
Rye.....	37,256	36,361	29,717
Barley.....	88,880	155,784	132,068
Oats.....	264,012	341,863	300,778
Maslin.....	15,194	29,207	21,962
Peas.....	<u>a</u> 10,270	9,061	9,293
Potatoes.....	102,138	130,409	126,191
Turnips.....	<u>a</u> 20,396	23,984	24,598
Hay.....	1,974,362	1,239,372	1,399,615

a. Two year average.

Sources: 1909-13 Aarsberetning Hosten i Norge for each year pp. 11-17, 10-16, 18-24, 16-24; 17-25 respectively; 1921 and 1922; same source 1921, pages 10-18, 1922, pages 13,-21.

PRODUCTION OF CROPS IN NORWAY IN 1921, 1922 AND THE AVERAGE FOR THE YEARS, 1909-13.

Crop	Average 1909-13.	1921.	1922.
	Winchester bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat.....	306,972	971,685	643,152
Rye.....	974,223	1,042,626	861,873
Barley.....	2,866,811	4,279,101	4,482,962
Oats.....	10,275,762	12,962,738	13,379,890
Maslin.....	585,842	693,841	599,260
Peas.....	<u>a</u> 256,700	149,483	177,272
Potatoes.....	24,780,203	25,995,493	32,698,550
		Winchester Bushels	Winchester Bushels.
Turnips.....	<u>a</u> 17,026,236	16,475,544	17,305,139
	Short Tons.	Short Tons.	Short Tons.
Hay.....	3,168,485	2,022,841	2,267,197

a. Two year average.

Sources: 1909-13 Aarsberetning Hosten i Norge for each year pages 11-17; 10-16; 18-24; 16-24; 17-25 respectively; 1921 and 1922 same source, 1921, pages 10-18; 1922, pages 13-21.

AREA AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS IN GREAT BRITAIN IN 1921 AND 1922.

Crops.	Area.		Production.	
	1921.	1922.	1921.	1922.
	Acres.	Acres.	1,000 Bushels.	1,000 Bushels.
Wheat	2,041,170	2,032,117	72,344	63,832
Barley	1,606,291	1,520,772	50,400	48,367
Oats	3,159,209	3,145,534	144,554	137,485
Beans	241,873	275,713	6,371	6,528
Peas	105,301	122,819	2,505	2,094
Potatoes	711,620	718,581	149,259	194,245
			Short Tons.	Short Tons.
Turnips and Swe- des	1,303,965	1,223,793	15,385,500	19,922,560
Mangold	374,536	423,396	7,040,380	9,625,952
Hay from clover, sainfoin, etc.	2,168,092	1,959,247	3,052,000	2,699,200
Hay from Permanent: grass	4,195,414	4,557,922	3,803,000	4,794,720

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Agricultural Statistics, 1922, Report on the Agricultural Production in England and Wales.

PRODUCTION OF CROPS (OTHER THAN CEREALS)* IN DENMARK IN 1909-13, 1921, 1922.

Crop.	Average, 1909-13.	1921.		1922.	
		:	:	:	:
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Potatoes	30,864,000	50,155,000	49,199,000		
	Short Tons.	Short Tons.	Short Tons.	Short Tons.	Short Tons.
Carrots	252,000	119,000	146,000		
Fodder	4,867,000	5,289,000	6,015,000		
Kohlrabi	5,021,000	7,545,000	7,664,000		
Turnips	3,016,000	2,234,000	2,564,000		
Sugarbeets	869,000	956,000	632,000		
Chickory	23,000	6,000	12,000		
Hay	1,985,000	1,824,000	1,533,000		
Straw	3,676,000	3,114,000	3,547,000		

* Production of cereal crops is published in the issue of February 21, page 129.
Source: Statistiske Efterretninger, March 2, 1923, page 43.

**NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF OCCUPIED PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE ON UNEVEN DATES
IN 23 COUNTRIES.**

Problems concerning agricultural workers affect a larger number of workers in almost every country than those engaged in manufacturing or mining or lumbering or commerce, and in a few countries more than in all these industries combined. As shown in the following table there are engaged in agriculture 51.4 per cent of all occupied men and boys and 48.7 per cent of all occupied women and girls or 50.6 per cent of all occupied persons in the leading countries of the world, not including the large agricultural populations of Russia, China, Serbia, Hungary, Argentine and Brazil.

Country.	Number of males engaged in agri- culture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied males.	Per- cent- age of total engaged in agri- culture. <u>2</u>	Number of females engaged in agri- culture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied females.	Per- cent- age of total engaged females. <u>2</u>	Sources.
	Number of males engaged in agri- culture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied males.	Per- cent- age of total engaged in agri- culture. <u>2</u>	Number of females engaged in agri- culture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied females.	Per- cent- age of total engaged females. <u>2</u>	
	Number of males engaged in agri- culture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied males.	Per- cent- age of total engaged in agri- culture. <u>2</u>	Number of females engaged in agri- culture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied females.	Per- cent- age of total engaged females. <u>2</u>	
	Number of males engaged in agri- culture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied males.	Per- cent- age of total engaged in agri- culture. <u>2</u>	Number of females engaged in agri- culture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied females.	Per- cent- age of total engaged females. <u>2</u>	
Australia	460,000	1,605,000	28.6	16,000	396,000	4.0	Official Year Book of Commonwealth of Australia 1910.
Austria	<u>3</u> 1,600,000	4,168,000	40.0				Annuaire Statistique. Divers Pays, 1919- 20.
Belgium	440,000	2,284,000	19.0	77,000	945,000	8.0	Annuaire Statistique du Royaume de Belgique, 1910.
Bulgaria							Annuaire Statistique de la France, 1919-20.
Canada	917,848	2,359,000	38.9	16,000	365,000	4.4	Canada Year Book 1921.
Czechoslovakia	1,350,000	3,841,000	35.0	1,530,000	2,910,000	52.5	Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia, 1910.
Denmark	390,264	901,785	43.0	109,823	463,109	23.6	Statistisk Aarbog, 1920.
Egypt	2,256,005	3,308,737	68.0				
Finland	568,000	855,700	66.0	329,000	486,500	67.0	
France	5,279,475	13,212,000	40.0	3,238,000	7,719,000	42.0	Annuaire Statistique de la France, 1919- 20, 1911 Census.
Germany	5,551,919	20,513,115	27.0	5,156,271	9,478,269	54.5	International Labour Review, July-August 1921.
United Kingdom	<u>5</u> 2,142,635	17,194,113	12.0	119,537	18,556,253	0.6	

¹. Certain European Countries include forestry workers. 2. *Ibid.* 3. Male and Female.

4. Old Bulgaria (1901).

5. The Rural District population according to the 1921 Census of England and Wales was slightly less numerically than the similar 1911 population. The increase within the existing rural areas, however, is not seriously below the mean for the whole country and indicates that the actual diminution is due merely to the normal growth of urban centers and not to any serious migration from country to town such as that which took place during the latter half of the last century and which is reflected in the intercensal changes between 1881 and 1901.

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF OCCUPIED PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE ON UNEVEN DATES
IN 23 COUNTRIES. (Cont'd.)

			: Per- : cent- : age of:			: Per- : cent- : age of:	
Country.	: Number of males en- gaged in Agricul- ture. <u>1</u>	Total occupied males.	: total occup- ied males.	females engaged in agricul- ture. <u>2</u>	Total occupied females.	: total occup- ied females.	Sources.
Holland	527,296	1,721,000	30.0				Haarcigers voor het Koninkrig der Nederlanden, 1919.
India	71,462,868	100,200,000	71.0	33,872,500	46,500,000	73.0	United Kingdom Census, General Report, 1911.
Italy	6,053,193	11,274,000	53.0	2,972,883	5,128,000	58.0	Annuario Statistic Italiano, 1917- 18. 3
Japan <u>4</u>	5,561,053		52.0				An Outline of Agriculture and Agricultural Labour in Japan.
New Zealand							New Zealand Offi- cial Year Book.
Norway	103,000	356,000	30.0	8,000	83,000	9.0	Statistisk Aarbok for Kongeriket Norge, 1917.
South Africa	1,080,554	1,947,604	55.0	1,105,703	1,770,544	62.5	Official Year Book of South Africa, 1918.
Sweden	743,710	1,547,532	43.0	333,000	619,000	53.0	Statistical Year Book 1920.
Switzerland	367,705	1,177,274	31.0	101,401	516,316	19.5	Statisches Jahr- buch der Schweiz, 1920.
United States of America.	10,851,702	30,091,564	36.0	1,307,501	3,075,772	22.4	Statistical Ab- stract of the United States, 1920.
Uruguay	96,649	339,000	28.5				

1. Certain European countries include forestry workers.

2. Ibid.

3. 1921 census giving totals only shows tendency to decrease.

4. The number of agricultural householders.

5. Percentage of Agricultural householders.

Source: Technical Survey of Agricultural Questions, International Labor Office, Geneva, 1921. Notes on 1921 Census added.

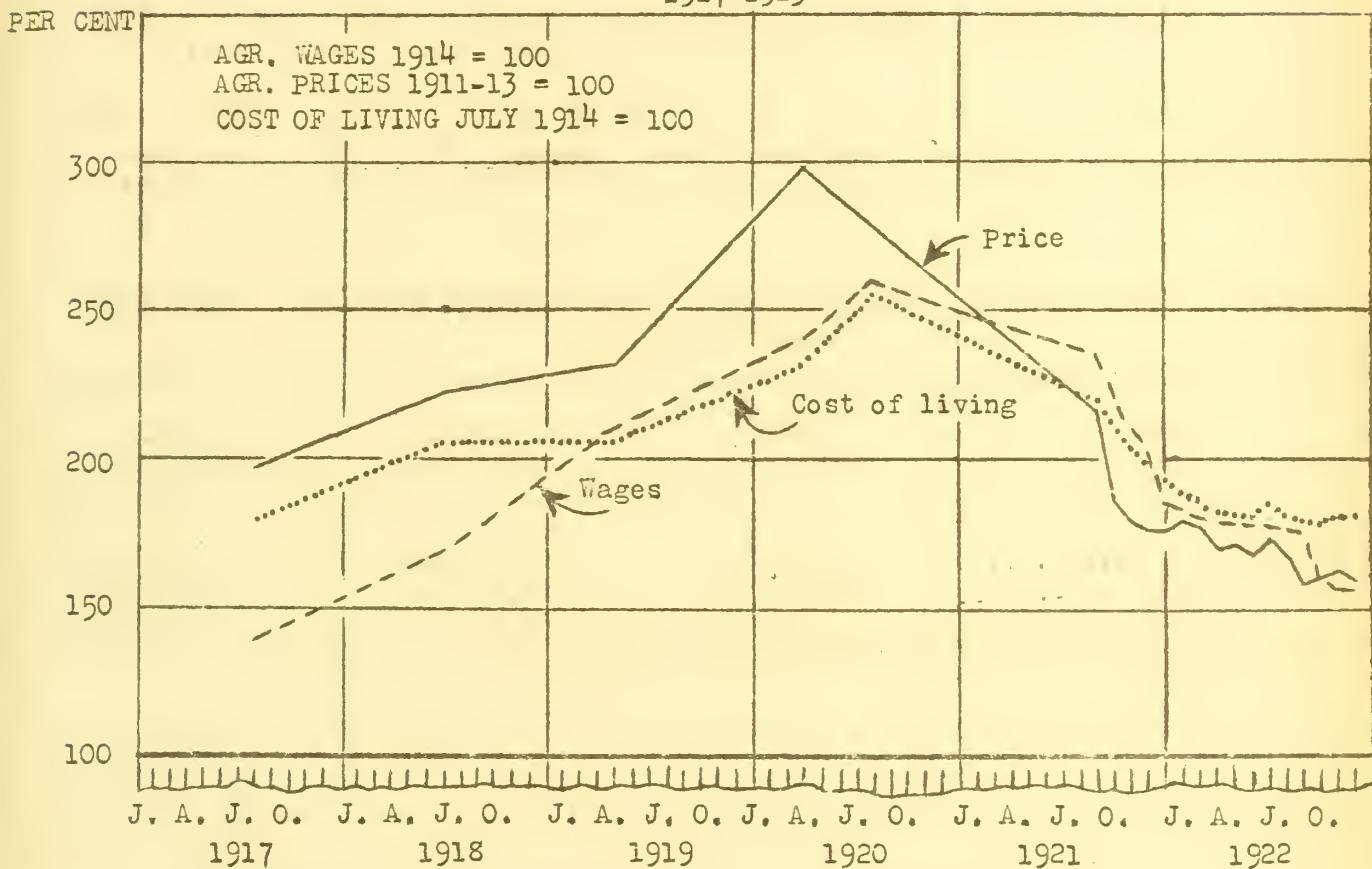
The relative movement of agricultural wages, prices of agricultural produce and cost of living of working class families in England and Wales from 1917 to 1922 inclusive were approximately as follows according to index numbers published by the British Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Percentage increase as compared with prewar rates.

Year - Month.	Prices of :		Cost of living, July 1914 = 100.	Ratio of agricultural wages to prices of agricultural produce.	Ratio of cultural wages to cost of living.
	Agricultural wages.	Agricultural produce 1911-13 = 100.			
1917 - August .. :	39	97	80	40.2	77.2
1918 - July :	69	123	105	56.1	82.4
1919 - May :	110	132	105	83.3	102.4
1920 - April ... :	139	199	132	70.0	103.0
1920 - August .. :	160	177	155	90.4	102.0
1921 - September :	135	116	120	116.5	106.3
" - October.. :	122	86	110	141.9	105.7
" - November..:	110	79	103	140.0	103.5
" - December :	105	76	99	138.2	103.0
1922 - January :	86	75	92	114.4	97.0
" - February :	83	79	88	105.1	97.3
" - March ... :	80	77	86	104.0	96.8
" - April ... :	79	70	82	112.9	98.4
" - May :	78	71	81	109.9	99.0
" - June :	78	68	80	114.7	98.9
" - July :	78	72	84	108.3	96.7
" - August .. :	76	67	81	113.4	97.2
" - September :	75	57	79	131.6	97.8
" - October.. :	60	59	78	101.7	90.0
" - November..:	55	62	80	88.7	86.1
" - December. :	55	59	80	93.2	86.1
1923 - January.. :	:	68	78	:	:
" - February :	:	63	77	:	:
" - March ... :	:	59	76	:	:
" - April.... :	:	54	74	:	:
" - May :	:	:	70	:	:

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Agricultural Market Report.

INDEX NUMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL WAGES, PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS AND COST OF LIVING IN ENGLAND AND WALES
1917-1923



Prices received by British farmers selling their products directly in the "home" market in competition with exporting countries of the world have been the principal factor in determining the wage level of British farm labor. The prices of British farm products which in April, 1920, had increased to three times the pre-war average were responsible for an unprecedented rise in farm wages. By 1922 farm wages had fallen below the general cost of living, but farm prices were during the greater part of the year relatively lower than either. It should be noted that the index of wages paid to farm workers does not take account of unemployment.

BANKRUPTCIES IN BRITISH AGRICULTURE, 1914-1922.

Numbers of failures under the Bankruptcy Act, of Farmers, Market Gardeners, and small Holders.

	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922		
Number.	:	131	97	54	57	24	26	31	222	327	
	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:		

Source: Quarterly Journal, May 1923, Central Land-Owners' Association, London.

AREA OF ARABLE LAND AND PERMANENT GRASS LAND IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1913, 1919
AND 1922.

Area.	:	1913. (Acres).	:	1919. (Acres).	:	1922. (Acres.)
Arable Land	:	11,058,000	:	12,309,000	:	11,311,000
Permanent Grass	:	16,071,000	:	14,439,000	:	14,715,000
	:		:		:	

Source: London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd., London.

LOCAL CONCILIATION COMMITTEES SUPERCEDE BRITISH WAGES BOARD.

The Agricultural Wages Board was abolished in 1921 with the repeal of the Corn Production Act, but the Ministry of Health simultaneously was empowered to set up voluntary local boards in its place. The new so-called Local Conciliation committees, composed of employers and workers' representatives, have promulgated the wage rulings for their respective areas since the Repeal Act took effect on October 1, 1921.

The British Minister of Agriculture, Sir Robert Sanders, in the House of Commons made the statement according to the Agricultural Gazette of April 27, 1923, that the government was not prepared to adopt the proposal of the Tribunal of Economists for setting up six District Wage Boards. It was the intention, however, to make compulsory the registration of agreements arrived at by conciliation committees.

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AVERAGE WAGES PER YEAR INCLUDING BOARD OF MALE FARM HELP IN
CANADA AND UNITED STATES AS ESTIMATED BY CROP CORRESPONDENTS, 1910-1922.

Year.	Canada.	Minnesota. United States exclusive of South Atlantic and South Central Sections. a	Weighted Average for United States. a
1910 ... :	347.70	312.00	295.92
1914 ... :	323.30	344.40	312.12
1915 ... :	341.00	345.60	318.72
1916 ... :	396.88	396.00	349.56
1917 ... :	610.50	468.00	424.80
1918 ... :	681.00	565.20	512.16
1919 ... :	784.00	644.40	570.72
1920 ... :	821.00	604.00	685.32
1921 ... :	669.00	444.00	448.68
1922 ... :	594.00	420.00	429.72

a. Reported in December of each year.

Source: Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada, February 1918 and February 1923, and United States Department of Agriculture, Yearbook, 1922, and files of Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

FARM LABOR IN CANADA, 1923.

American Vice Consul in Charge, E. Eugene Herbert, Regina, Sask. Bank, Canada reports as of April 26, 1923; farm labor is scarce generally throughout the province. Wages are ranging from \$35.00 to \$60.00 per month for the season.

FARM LABOR IN UNITED STATES, 1923.

The United States Department of Agriculture in The Agricultural Situation for June 1, 1923, issued the following statement: "Farm labor shortage is beginning to be felt in the United States to some extent in lack of farm hands and distinctly in higher wages".

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.

Attempts have been made in various countries to insure agricultural workers against unemployment. Some degree of success has been obtained in the form of compulsory insurance in Italy, and in the form of subsidies to the trade union funds in Denmark and the Netherlands. In no case, however, can it be said that the system has been undeniably successful.

The indifference of agricultural workers to unemployment insurance is to be explained by the great difference between industrial and agricultural employment. In agriculture there are many intermediate stages between employer and employee and the distinction is not always as clear as in industry. Where, as in many countries the worker has a plot of ground of his own or other accessory occupation, total unemployment among agricultural workers is comparatively rare. Seasonal unemployment is under such circumstances provided against by supplementary agricultural occupation.

It is for the real agricultural laborer who is destined to remain thruout his life in a dependent condition and is unlikely to become a farmer himself that insurance is justified. This is the ordinary position of agricultural workers in certain countries. For agricultural workers of this kind unemployment constitutes a real problem which is more serious than in most other occupations. Unemployment is, in fact, one of the fundamental causes of distress from which they suffer and perhaps the strongest motive which induces them to migrate to industry.

If, however, insurance is to be anything more than relief, and if it is to be applied to those persons who really need it, careful study is still required to determine the extent and nature of the risk of unemployment in each category of agricultural worker and in each country; and to settle the form to be adopted and the conditions of insurance in each country and each branch of agriculture, detailed research should be undertaken.

Abstract from Technical Survey of Agricultural Questions published October 1921 by the International Labor Office, Geneva.

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE.

The International Labor Office, Geneva, in its Technical Survey of Agricultural Questions published in October, 1921 reported governments responding to their questionnaires as much interested in recent years in the question of the placing of agricultural labor and in favor generally of a recommendation extending the national system of employment exchanges to agriculture. A measure of this kind is especially necessary on account of the great fluctuations in agricultural work, the necessity for the sudden and rapid transference of large masses of workers, the multiplicity and irregularity of the work, the poverty which is generally prevalent among agricultural workers and the urgency of their work.

The associations of land-owners and the Agricultural Chambers in Europe were the first to realize the use of organization in this respect. The central offices for agricultural workers (Feldarbeiterzentrale) in Germany and Austria, and the Chambers of Agriculture in France were formerly the most highly developed organizations for the recruiting and placing of labor in agriculture. This was soon followed by the official labor exchanges which attempted to unify the labor market and to induce workers of rural origin who had drifted into industrial work for which they were unfitted, to return to work on the land.

Before the war it was the Central Powers which carried out this policy most actively. The placing of agricultural labour had attained real importance in these countries, especially within the Economic Union of Central Europe. In other countries, a number of private associations for the placing of agricultural workers also sprang up.

These conditions were, however, modified by the war. During the war the Governments perceived the necessity for a satisfactory distribution of agricultural labour which had become still more scarce. Interesting and successful systems were created in France, Italy and the United States for this purpose, but certain of these war organizations have already ceased to function. Other countries, such as Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Canada, already have well-developed employment exchanges which may serve as models; while still other countries, such as India, Poland and the Netherlands are making a close study of the problem, and are attempting to set up an effective system.

EFFECT OF EMIGRATION UPON LABOR SUPPLY IN ITALY.

The total population "present" in Italy according to latest census, December 1, 1921, within the former boundaries was 37,276,738, an increase of 2,605,361 over the 1911 census. The relative increase of population in the period 1911-21 is 7.5% in comparison with 6.7% in the preceding ten years. This represents the greatest increase since the foundation of the kingdom. In no other of the belligerent countries was the rate of increase of the population between 1911 and 1921 greater than in the preceding ten years. This record rate of increase is due principally to arrest of emigration during and since the war, and since the Immigration Restriction Act of May 19, 1921, especially to the limitation of immigration of Italians into the United States.

TREND OF ITALIAN MIGRATORY MOVEMENT, 1876-1922.

Period	1876-1886	1887-1900	1901-1913	1913	1918
Approximate	:	:	:	:	:
average annual	: 135,000	: 270,000	: 654,000	: 873,000	: 28,000
number of emi-	:	:	:	:	:
grants	:	:	:	:	:

Period	1919	1920	1921	1922	
				1st half	
Approximate	:	:	:	:	:
average annual	: 243,000	: 365,000	: 255,000	: 93,000	:
number of emi-	:	:	:	:	:
grants	:	:	:	:	:

The proportion of the population engaged in agriculture is not known, as from the 1921 census only total population has been calculated. According to previous calculations, roughly one-third of the population over ten years of age is engaged in agriculture with a tendency to diminish while one-fifth is employed in industry which proportion tends to increase. With the increasing density of population this would not be alarming from the agricultural point of view provided that the exodus of agricultural laborers is compensated for by improvements in the methods of production. However, the flight from the land, which caused anxiety during the war has ceased in consequence of the industrial crisis.

Source: International Chamber of Commerce, Rome.
(Second Congress, March 18-25, 1923)
Italian Section.

ITALY.

The basic working day in Italy was fixed by a recent government decree at eight hours for all occupations including agricultural labor, with the exceptions foreseen under the law for seasonal trades.

Source: Business and Financial Report of the Association of Italian Corporations, Rome, May 1, 1923.

THE INCREASE OF WAGES IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES IN ITALY BETWEEN 1914 AND 1921.

Industry.	Average Daily Wage.		Index No. in 1921 taking 1914 wage as 100.
	1914.	1921.	
	Lire.	Lire.	
Mining	3.00	.....	....
Metallurgical	2.52	19.50	776
Maritime transport	3.75	19.02	507
Chemical	3.39	14.76	435
Textile	1.63	13.50	328
Land transport	6.75	24.75	366
Building	3.89	26.00	573
Printing	4.84	30.00	619
Paper	2.29	16.23	708
Leather	4.17	22.00	527
Wood	4.92	37.00	752
Food	2.36	27.50	953
Heating and Lighting	4.76	19.00	399
Agriculture	2.25	14.00	622
Various	5.21	13.77	360
Average	3.71	21.21	571

Source: Report to Department of Overseas Trade on the Commercial, Industrial and Economic situation in Italy, December, 1922 by Mr. J. H. Henderson, O.B.E., Commercial Secretary and Mr. H. C. A. Carpenter, Commercial Secretary, British Embassy, Rome.

AGRICULTURAL LABOR AND WAGES IN MAURITIUS.

The scarcity of agricultural labor and increased wages in recent years have resulted in a marked lowering of the standard of cultivation adopted in the Island of Mauritius. The island, lying off the coast of Africa in the South Indian Ocean some 500 miles east of Madagascar, has an area of 720 square miles or 460,800 acres. The population is a little over 500 persons per square mile. The industries of the island are entirely agricultural. The interests of the colony are wholly bound up in the sugar industry.

Agricultural labor is almost exclusively Indian in origin. Indentured immigration from India which began after the abolition of slavery in 1855, continued until its prohibition in 1910. Agricultural labor at present is derived from this indentured immigration from India. The wages are now so much higher than is required to meet the cost of living that all increases are reflected in voluntary unemployment. The report of the Director of Agriculture looks to the further increase of labor saving machinery, both in the factories and more especially in the methods of cultivation to provide a solution of the labor problem, which in Mauritius, as in other parts of the world, is coming into prominence now that the tide of prosperity has turned.

Source: British Colonial Report for 1921 on Mauritius.

AVERAGE DAILY WAGES OF DANISH FARM WORKERS PERMANENTLY EMPLOYED
AND BOARDING THEMSELVES 1913-1922.

Year.	Kroner per day.	Index of Farm Wages.	Index of Prices.	
			Butter.	Pork.
1913	2.50	100	a	a
1919-20	6.00	240	271	299
1920-21	8.00	320	294	365
1921-22	7.00	280	207	277
1922-23	5.00	200		

a. 1909-14 = 100.

Source: Wage rates as reported in Excerpts from Annual Report on Danish Commerce and Industry from Consul General, Marion Letcher, Copenhagen, Denmark, March 28, 1923. Price indexes from special report of Assistant Trade Commissioner H. Sorensen, Copenhagen, February 22, 1923.

PROFITS OF DANISH AGRICULTURE, 1918-1920, AS PUBLISHED BY THE DANISH AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC BUREAU.

Size of Farms.	Net Profits in Kroner per Hectare.			Percentage Profit on Capital Invested.		
	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.	1918-19.	1919-20.	1920-21.
Less than 10 hectares a	308	288	279	9.5	8.2	7.4
10 - 20 "	329	287	231	11.3	10.3	8.5
20 - 30 "	315	279	247	10.4	9.6	8.4
30 - 50 "	298	282	244	10.6	10.0	8.4
50 - 100 "	282	267	210	10.3	10.0	8.3
More than 100 "	281	274	170	11.5	11.1	6.7
All farms	306	281	236	10.6	9.9	8.2

a. Hectare = 2.471 acres.

Source: Finanstidende, December 20, 1922.

RUSSIAN WORKMEN TURNING TO AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Sarin, Latvian Consular General at Moscow, thinks that one reason for the drop in the price of grain is the great reduction of industry which has forced many workmen to turn to agricultural pursuits and their only source of income is the sale of grain.

Source: F. W. B. Coleman, Legation of the U. S. A. Regia, Latvia, March 1, 1923.

GROSS RETURNS, OPERATING EXPENSES AND COST OF LABOR ON SWISS FARMS BASED
ON THE OPERATIONS OF 402 FARMS OF WIDELY VARIED REGIONS OF SWITZERLAND,
1901-05 - 1921.

Period.	: Gross Return per Inhabitant.	: Operating Expenses: Output for manual per Inhabitant.	: Labor per Inhabitant.
	: Swiss Francs.	: Swiss Francs.	: Swiss Francs.
1901-05	: 590	: 449	: 274
1906-13	: 723	: 534	: 315
1914-19	: 1,292	: 781	: 460
1920	: 1,652	: 1,256	: 738
1921	: 1,246	: 1,190	: 602

INTEREST EARNED ON CAPITAL INVESTED ON 402 SWISS FARMS CALCULATED ON THE
BASIS OF A NORMAL WAGE TO EACH MEMBER OF THE FAMILY WHO WORKS ON THE
FARM AS A PART OF THE OPERATING EXPENSES, 1901-05, 1921.

Period.	: Net Returns per Inhabitant.	: Percentage of Gain on Invested Capital.
	: Swiss Francs.	:
1901-05	: 141	: 2.78
1906-13	: 139	: 3.43
1914-19	: 511	: 3.36
1920	: 396	: 5.58
1921	: 56	: 0.12

Source: Report from Vice Consul, Robert B. Macatee, Geneva, Switzerland,
December 11, 1922, quoting a report in the Journal de Geneve by
the Secretariat de la Union des Paysans Suisse.

DECREASE IN FARM PROFITS IN THE NETHERLANDS,
As Shown by the Statement of the Central Bookkeeping of the
Frisian Farmers' Cooperative Societies.

	Bookkeeping Year.		
	: 1919-20.	: 1920-21.	: 1921-22.
Number of concerns controlled	: 218	: 276	: 382
	: Fl.	: Fl.	: Fl.
Gross profits per concern	: 11,272	: 11,209	: 4,876
Net profits per concern	: 6,329	: 5,573	: 25
	: :	: :	: :

Source: Dept. of Overseas Trade, London, Report on the Economic, Financial
and Industrial Conditions of the Netherlands, to Feb., 1923.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL LABOR IN FRANCE, AS REPORTED
BY THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
1921 AND 1922.

Numbers include Men, Women, and Children.

Country of Origin,	:	1921.	:	1922.
Belgium.....	:	20,737	:	13,293
Spain.....	:	27,266	:	39,773
Portugal.....	:	996	:	2,078
Italy.....	:	4,682	:	7,704
Poland.....	:	2,241	:	9,077
Holland.....	:	.....	:	1,051
	:		:	
Total.....	:	52,923	:	72,976

Source: Journal d'Agriculture Pratique, February 17, 1923, quoting Le Journal Officiel.

DECREASE IN PROPORTION OF RURAL TO URBAN POPULATION IN FRANCE, 1872-1921.

Inhabitants of Communes of over 2,000 souls classified as urban.

Census Year.	:	1872.	:	1891.	:	1911 (1).	:	1921 (1).
Percentage classified	:		:		:		:	
as rural in 87	:		:		:		:	
departments	:	65.9	:	62.6	:	55.8	:	53.6

(1). The census of 1911 showed an excess in the total population of 683,245 females over males, while mainly as a consequence of the war this excess is now estimated as more than 2,000,000.

Source: British Department of Overseas Trade Report on Economic Conditions in France, March 1923.

SCARCITY OF FARM LABOR IN BELGIUM.

The industry is suffering from a considerable fall in the prices of its produce, whilst the cost of manufactured articles required by the farmer still remains high. Other causes working to the detriment of the agriculturist are the scarcity and dearness of labour. This scarcity of labour, somewhat remarkable in Belgium, which in pre-war days used annually to send to France some 22,000 hands between the months of March and September, is due to the emigration to the devastated areas of France, where work can be had at more remunerative rates. To a certain extent, in the industrial districts, compensation has been found through the working of the Eight Hours Bill, which allows of factory hands employing their spare time in the fields.

A crisis in the agricultural industry would have special significance in Belgium, and its effects would be widely felt, for the soil belongs to no less than 720,000 proprietors. The average holding is 10 acres, and only 5 per cent own more than 27 acres (10 hectares).

Source: Department of Overseas Trade report on the Economic and Financial Conditions in Belgium, December 1922, page 53.

FARM WAGES AND PRICES IN EGYPT.

Egypt is predominantly an agricultural country, nine-tenths of the population being connected with the land. During the war years the value of her agricultural products increased by leaps and bounds. The price of cotton, the leading crop, had a phenomenal rise. One important result of the soaring prices of cotton was to raise the price of cotton lands, some of them selling for from 400 to 500 Egyptian pounds (\$1,976 to \$2,470, par) per feddan (1.04 acres). The general effect on wages was an increase of 100 to 125 per cent over the pre-war scale, workers of all classes being affected. Even in the country districts where there has been no distinct labor trouble and the cost of living has risen more gradually than in the towns, wages showed an average increase of more than 100 per cent over pre-war rates. This was partly due to the scarcity of labor during the cotton season, 1919-20. Children's wages rose from 8 to 10 piasters (\$0.39 to \$0.49) par) per day and cotton picking which before the war cost 15 piasters (\$0.74, par) per hundred-weight paid by weight in 1919 cost from 100 to 150 piasters (\$4.90 to \$7.35, par) per hundredweight paid by the day. The fall in the value of cotton and in the prices of other articles has been accompanied by a movement toward a reduction of wages which has resulted in great economic unrest. The great mass of the fellahs (peasants) however, still remain practically untouched by the economic doctrines which sway the inhabitants of the cities.

Source: United States Department of Labor, Monthly Labor Review, August 1921.

GREATER USE OF FARM MACHINERY EXPECTED IN GUATEMALA.

With the exception of the coffee and sugar industries the methods of cultivation are primitive and crude but owing to the shortage of labor, an increase in the use of machinery is to be expected.

Source: Survey of Economic and Financial Conditions in the Republic of Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala 1921-22, Department of Overseas Trade, London.

MEXICAN FARMERS ORGANIZE.

A large group of farmers met near Hermosillo, Mexico, in the spring of 1923 to organize a union for the purpose of protecting the interests of the small farmers whose present situation is very close to penury, according to El Diario de Sonora of March 20, as quoted by American Consul Bartley F. Yost at Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, March 25, 1923.

AGRICULTURAL LABOR ORGANIZATION IN GERMANY.

At the present time only about 45 per cent of the 2,000,000 agricultural workers in Germany are organized as compared with a union membership of about 85 per cent of industrial workers. Agricultural labor unions have had a smaller growth since the war than industrial unions.

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Report on Agricultural Labor in Germany, February 23, 1923, by Margaret L. Goldsmith, Assistant Trade Commissioner, Berlin, Germany.

ECONOMIC FACTORS AFFECTING FARM WAGES IN CHINA.

Labor is plentiful and consequently cheap in China relative to capital and land. Mr. Ta Chen, writing on Labor Unrest in China in The Monthly Labor Review of the U. S. B. of L. S. of August 1921, stated that high rates of interest and high rents in rural communities of China work hardship on the agricultural laborer. The landowner usually exacts from 13 to 20 per cent interest on his loans and charges about the same rate of interest on mortgages. In hiring a helper, the farmer has to take this excessive rate of interest into account, especially if he himself is in debt, and so he feels it necessary to keep the wages down. A farm helper rarely gets more than 25 cents a day, plus board and lodging. Besides regular work on the farm, he attends to such odd jobs as drawing water from the well or getting fuel for the kitchen. Rent also is high. The tenant pays the owner from 1.4 to 1.8 tan (5) per mow, (6) out of an annual yield of from 3.2 to 3.8 tan per mow, or about 46 per cent of the gross produce. The amount the mortgagor-farmer pays in interest to the mortgagee and wages to the helper (if any) amounts to the same as the tenant pays to the landowner. The laborer lives from hand to mouth. The small farmer can save little. The wealth seems to concentrate in the hands of the landowners.

5. 1 tan = 100 sen, and 1 sen = 1.35 liters, or 3.84 bushels.

6. 1 mow = one-sixth acre.

AVERAGE DAILY WAGES in 1917 OF FARM LABOR, INCLUDING BOARD IN FIVE CHINESE CIRCUITS. WAGES ARE GIVEN AS OF THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF EACH CIRCUIT, VIZ. SHANGHAI, NANKING, PEKING, TAI-YUEN AND AMOY.

	Males.		Females.	
	Chinese dollars.	United States dollars. ¹	Chinese dollars.	United States dollars.
Shanghai .....	.36	.24	.24	.16
Nanking .....	.12 - .32 ²	.08 - .21	.10 - .20 ²	.07 - .13
Peking .....	.05 - .50	.03 1/3 - .34	.03 - .30	.02 - .21
Tai-Yuen .....	.09 - .30	.06 - .20	.07 - .20	.05 - .13
Amoy .....	.25 - .50	.17 - .34	.08 - .18	.05 1/3 - .12

1/ Silver content of Chinese dollar at average price of silver in 1913 = \$0.4777. Average exchange value for the year 1917 was 67 cents in gold on basis of monthly quotations as published by the Federal Reserve Board.

2. Including lodging.

Source: Sixth Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, Peking, August 1920, as quoted by Mr. Ta Chen in the Monthly Labor Review, August 1921, of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

INVESTIGATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL CRISIS IN JAPAN.

According to a report in the Osaka Asahi of January 31, 1923 the Chuo Noji Kyokai (The Central Agricultural Association) held a conference at 11 a.m. January 27 at the office of the Imperial Agricultural Association for discussion of the measures which it is proposed the Association will take in connection with the present political and economic crisis in agriculture in Japan. It is planned to stimulate the self consciousness of farmers in this country and make investigations of current agricultural problems. As to the first point, those present unanimously came to a conclusion that they should call a mass meeting of all the farmers in Japan, contribute to the political education of farmers, which will give them encouragement in the matter of unionizing.

Source: Report by James F. Abbott, Commercial Attache, Tokyo, Japan, February 7, 1923.

FARMING CONDITIONS IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

The Pioneer stage of farming in South Africa is now passing. The man now entering upon farming in this country and those already in it unless they have a substantial backing, must not only be ready to grasp any special opportunities that come their way, but they must also be prepared to spend long hours in the burning sun, and frequently longer ones after the sun has gone down, if they would succeed. Whether the farmer actually does much manual work himself or not depends upon the size of the business. In any case the supervision must be of the closest if leakage of time and money is to be prevented. With many farmers the cost of repairs and replacements are inordinately high, and the habit is to put the blame on the native. The farmer, however, who is constantly with his natives, whose supervision is efficient, and who is prepared to do a little repair work himself, does not find these costs such a burden.

During the ploughing season many successful maize farmers get out with their ploughs at 4 a.m. and stay with them all day, not even returning for meals, in order to ensure that their ploughing shall be done thoroughly. The other farmer probably does not consider it necessary to get on the lands until he has had his breakfast, and he never misses a meal for the sake of thoroughness in his farming methods. To-day the path to success is a hard and narrow one. The easier one will likely lead to a heavier bond.

Source: Journal of the Department of Agriculture, of the Union of South Africa, April 1923, page 287.

LABOR IN THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA, NATIVE AND WHITE.

Month ending January 31 -	Whites.	Colored.	Total.
1923	30,302	252,373	283,180
1922	17,508	229,563	247,071

Source: Monthly Review, Standard Bank of South Africa, Ltd., Cape Town, March 31, 1923.

STATE AID FOR HOUSING OF IMMIGRANT FARM WORKERS IN AUSTRALIA.

An amendment has been made to the Housing Act of Victoria, Australia, to authorize the State Government Savings Bank to make advances to farmers who desire to employ immigrant farm workers but are unable to do so owing to a lack of living accommodations. More suitable accommodations are particularly needed for married couples with one or two children. The advances to be made by this bank must be covered by a first mortgage on a few acres of land on which the house is to be built. It is estimated that the cost of each house will be about £ 100 (\$500 at par) of which a 10 per cent deposit would be payable, and the balance by installments equal to about 12s. (\$2.92 at par) per week.

Source: Commercial Intelligence Journal, March 3, 1923, page 355, issued by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Canada.

FINNISH EMIGRATION.

An inquiry into emigration covering 145 communes was made in the spring of 1921 by the Statistical Service of the Central Finnish Council for Social Affairs on the request of the Emigration Commission. The number of those having emigrated from these communes was estimated at about 90,750 persons of whom 87,400 had gone to North America, 600 to South America, 250 to South Africa, 400 to Australia, while the destinations of the remainder were unknown.

Source: International Labor Review, February-March 1923.

POSSIBLE FARM LABOR SCARCITY IN GERMANY.

German farmers may have to contend this year with a shortage of farm labor. Germany formerly used a great deal of foreign farm labor during the summer, chiefly from what is now Poland and Czechoslovakia and even Italy and Servia. The wages which the German farmers are now able to pay present small attraction to foreign farm laborers. The formalities contingent on political changes since the war are a further obstacle to the summer migration of farm laborers to Germany.

Source: Consular Report, Stettin, Germany, February 8, 1923.

BRAZILIAN IMMIGRATION OF FARM LABOR CLASS.

Decree No. 15868 authorizes a credit in favor of the Ministry of Agriculture with the object of bringing immigrants of agricultural laborer class to Brazil from Europe, and also the allocation of national workers to centers of activity, according to a statement in the Monthly Review of Business and Trade Conditions in South America, by the London and River Plate Bank, Ltd.

FEDERAL AID TO SWISS EMIGRATION.

A grant of 50,000 francs in aid of emigration was voted by the Federal Council of Switzerland in its October, 1922, sittings. Federal legislation had never before so encouraged emigration. It is becoming more and more evident that for several years to come the supply of manual labor in Switzerland will be greater than the demand. Under these circumstances it is quite natural that the number of Swiss emigrants should have increased; in a great many cases emigration is the only possible solution to the vexed question of unemployment. Swiss emigration is now directed chiefly towards Canada, Brazil, and Paraguay.

Source: Report on the Economic and Financial Conditions in Switzerland, December 1922 by Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, Commercial Secretary to His Majesty's Legation, Berne.

EMIGRATION UNDER BRITISH OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT PLAN.

More than 82,000 British ex-service men and women, and their dependents, obtained free transportation to various countries of the Empire under the British Government's overseas settlement plan which was in operation from April, 1919, to the end of 1922. Two-thirds of the number went to Canada and Australia.

A summary of the Overseas Settlement Committee's report just received by the Bankers Trust Company of New York, from its English Information Service, shows that 37,199 men, 21,672 women and 23,325 children were given free passage. Of the total number 34,763 chose Australia, 26,560 journeyed to Canada, 12,890 to New Zealand, and 5,894 went to South Africa.

Under another plan, provided for by the Empire Settlement Act of 1922, 7,058 British emigrants were granted Government assistance toward passage to Australia in the last six months of 1922, and 4,092 others were assisted in the trip in last January and February.

Source: Bankers Trust Company, Department of Foreign Information, British Section, New York, April 13, 1923.

ESTHONIAN STUDENTS TO WORK ON GERMAN FARMS.

According to the Pommerublatt of March 3, 1923, the Dean of the U. of Dorpat wrote to the German Foreign Office at Berlin inquiring whether a number of Estonian students of agriculture would be permitted to observe methods of farming and to work on farms and estates in Northern Germany for the period from April 20 to October 10 of this year. The Foreign Office has been informed by the Ministry of Agriculture that in the interest of maintaining good relations with Estonia the students will be accommodated provided Estonia agrees to accord similar treatment, to German students in reciprocal cases.

Source: Consular Report (Clerk) Stettein, Germany, March 10, 1923.

WORLD PROTECTION OF FARM WORKERS.

The formation of an important international committee to study questions connected with the world protection of farm workers has just been completed by the governing body of the International Labor Office of the League of Nations at Geneva. Questions of conditions of life and labor in agriculture will receive thru this organization the most careful and expert consideration.

The committee is a result of negotiations between the International Labor Office and the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. Representatives of both institutions met at Geneva earlier in the year to discuss the basis of closer cooperation in the work of these two important institutions which would not only enhance its value, but would also avoid the possibility of overlapping and duplication. A mixed Advisory Committee on Agriculture was recommended at this meeting, which should consist of three members from each institution with power to summon any expert it might deem necessary to attend its meetings.

Source: Journal of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture, London, December 1922, page 117.

FARM WAGES FIXED BY LAW IN URUGUAY.

A law was recently enacted by the Uruguayan Congress for the purpose of defining and protecting the status of rural laborers.

The chief features of this law include: a minimum wage of 18 pesos a month, or 72 cents a day for laborers over 18 years and under 51 years who may be employed on estates valued at more than 20,000 pesos; a minimum wage of 20 pesos a month, or 80 cents a day for laborers employed on estates valued at more than 60,000 pesos. Other provisions call for the payment of a less wage than that fixed for laborers with physical infirmities; Sunday, or one full day each week without work, hygienic dwellings, etc.

Source: Consular Report by Hoffman Philip, Montevideo, Uruguay, March 2, 1923.

BRITISH FARM LABOR STRIKE.

The Norfolk farm laborers' dispute started on March 17. The farmers proposed to reduce wages and increase hours as the building trades employers had done earlier. In place of 6d. an hour for a 48 hour week (24s weekly) they proposed 5-1/2 d. an hour for 54 hours or 24s.9d. A strike of 2,000 men occurred at once.

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Commerce Reports, May 14, 1923.

LABOR COSTS IN HUNGARY.

Labor costs in Hungary are based on the general foodstuffs prices. A bushel of wheat will buy nearly 2-1/2 times as much agricultural labor as before the war.

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Report of Special Representative, Alfred P. Dennis, January 31, 1923.

(N.B.—While the percentages given in the following Summary Table are derived from the most authoritative sources of statistical information, certain differences in the nature and scope of the data used, in the methods of combining such data and in the periods for which the rise is measured, suggest the need for caution in drawing conclusions from a comparison between the figures for any two countries. It is also to be observed that in every case the percentage calculation is based on the assumption that the standard of living is identical at the various periods compared.)

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN RETAIL FOOD PRICES IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AS COMPARED WITH JULY 1914. *

Country.	Percentage Increase as compared with July, 1914.*						Latest available figure.
	July, 1919.	July 1920.	July 1921.	July 1922.	Rise.	Date.	
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	1923	
United States	86:	115:	45:	39:	40:	April	
Foreign Countries:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Austria (Vienna).....	....	....1	9,320:	328,100:1,293,400:	400:	April	
Belgium 2.....	....	359:	310:	281:	317:	April	
Czechoslovakia 3.....	....	....	1,246:	1,330:	826:	March	
Denmark.....	112:	153:	136:	84:	80:	January	
Finland.....	....	882:	1,178:	1,005:	973:	February	
France (Paris) 3.....	161:	273:	206:	197:	220:	April	
" (other towns) 3.....4	188:4	288:4	250:4	212:	231:	February	
Germany.....	....	....	1,391:	6,736:	331,400:	March	
Holland (The Hague).....	....	143:	113:	80:	62:	March	
" (Amsterdam).....	110:	117:	85:	44:	46:	February	
Italy (Rome).....	106:	218:	302:	359:	379:	March	
" (Milan).....	210:	345:	406:	392:	394:	April	
Norway.....	189:	219:	195:	133:	112:	April	
Poland (Warsaw).....	....	....	45,555:	129,711:	857,804:	February	
Sweden 3.....	210:	197:	132:	79:	63:	April	
Switzerland.....	....	....	110:	57:	56:	March	
United Kingdom.....	109:	158:	120:	80:	62:	May	
British Dominions, Etc. ::	:2	:	:	:	:	:	
Australia.....	47:	94:	61:	48:	45:	March	
Canada.....	86:	127:	48:	38:	43:	April	
India (Bombay).....	....	88:	74:	60:	50:	April	
Irish Free State.....	....	....	....1	87:	96:	January	
New Zealand.....	44:	67:	64:	44:	41:	March	
South Africa.....	39:	97:	39:	16:	17:	March	

* Exceptions to this are: Belgium in which comparison is with April, 1914; France (other towns) 3rd quarter of 1914; Germany, average, 1913-14; The Hague, January to July, 1914; Rome, Milan, Florence, January to June, 1914; Switzerland, June 1914; Poland, January, 1914; Amsterdam, average, 1913; South Africa Average, 1914.

1. Figure for June. 2. The increases shown are for families of the lowest income class; in April the increase for all working-class families ranges from 317 to 323 per cent.

3. Fuel and lighting are also included in these figures. 4. Figure for August.

Source: British Ministry of Labour Gazette, May 1923, p. 186.

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